

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
 Georgia Pain Physicians Mercury Spill - Removal Polrep
 Initial and Final Removal Polrep



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 Region IV**

Subject: **POLREP #1**
Assessment & Residual Mercury Clean-up
Georgia Pain Physicians Mercury Spill

Ringgold, GA
Latitude: 34.9139360 Longitude: -85.1302352

To: James Webster, USEPA R4 ERRB
 Jerry Campbell, GAEPD

From: David Andrews, OSC

Date: 12/24/2014

Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B45E	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	12/17/2014	Start Date:	12/17/2014
Demob Date:	12/22/2014	Completion Date:	12/22/2014
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	12/17/2014
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

- CERCLA Response
- Mercury (Hg) spill
- Indoor
- Commercial/Industrial – Hg exposure not expected

1.1.2 Site Description

- The site is a medical practice consisting of a suite of exam rooms and offices in a commercial office park complex. Location of spill (source release) in Exam Room no. 2.

1.1.2.1 Location

313 Boyton Road, Ringgold, Catoosa County, Georgia

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Residual Hg vapors from recent spill incident in Exam Rm 2. RP conducted initial spill mitigation/clean-up. Incident caused by damaged sphygmomanometer (Hg containing blood pressure cuff). Airborne concentrations exceeding established health-based risk levels for the category **commercial/industrial where Hg exposure not expected**. RP requested EPA's assistance in determining next steps to complete effective and successful clean-up.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The OSC conducted air monitoring with portable atomic spectrometer (Lumex Lite). Air monitoring indicated 35 to 50 ug/m3 Hg in Exam Room No. 2 (sealed/taped shut w/ no ventilation). Office areas and waiting room averaged 1.2 ug/m3 on three instrument passes.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Response Actions to Date

- The following actions describe the operational highlights of the day:

December 17, 2014 (early afternoon)

- Region 4 FOSC arrived at GA Pain Clinic, met with office manager and briefed on situation.
- FOSC conducted three passes through the clinic at five (5) sampling locations to establish a baseline assessment.
- Assessment found that offices, exam rooms and common areas were below action levels for commercial/industrial (Hg exposure not expected) below 1 ug/m3.
- Exam Room No. 2 averaged 35 ug/m3 (35,000 ng/m3) with Lumex atomic absorption spectrometer..
- FOSC advised office manager to continue "lock out" (no use) of Exam Rm. 2 and mop Exam Rm. 2 at least twice with concentrated magnesium sulfate (Epsom Salt) with rinsing. Continue aggressive ventilation of offices during & after hours.
- FOSC to return on the morning of December 18, 2014 for follow-up air monitoring of Hg throughout the clinic.
- OSHA was on site conducting investigation of incident. FOSC discussed findings with OSHA representative.

December 18, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

- 2 FOSCs (D. Andrews & B. Englert) arrived for follow-up assessment and advisement to the RP.
- Hg levels in the common areas and offices < 1000 ng/m3.
- Exam Room No. 2 averaged 4,700 ng/m3 Hg.
- FOSC advised RP to continue aggressive after business hours ventilation. Additionally, "heat" Exam Room No. 2 with a space heater or increase the office HVAC. The FOSC also advised the RP to consider having custodial services to apply floor wax to Exam Room No. 2 and, possibly, office wide to assure residual Hg vapor control.
- FOSC to return to the clinic on December 23, 2014 to assess progress with follow-up air monitoring.

December 23, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

- FOSC (D. Andrews) arrived at clinic, met with RP point of contact and began warm-up and baseline test with LUMEX atomic absorption spectrometer.
- FOSC conducted three passes through the clinic at previously established air sampling locations.
- Office/ common areas measured an range of 900 to 1,200 ng/m3.
- Exam Room No. 2 averaged 1,400 ng/m3.
- The clinic was under established health-based levels for Hg (Commercial/Industrial - Mercury exposure not expected) < 3,000 ng/m3.
- The RP had not waxed the floors over the weekend. The RP was in the process of contracting service to wax the office.
- The FOSC additionally advised the RP that medical monitoring for Hg for the office staff may be appropriate over the next year.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

None

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

RP conducted clean-up and will comply with State/Local requirements of Hg containing materials.

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

- No further action anticipated by Region 4 at this time.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

- None

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

None

2.2.2 Issues

None

2.3 Logistics Section

N/A

2.4 Finance Section

N/A

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

N/A

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

N/A

2.5.3 Information Officer

N/A

3. Participating Entities**3.1 Unified Command**

N/A

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

Federal OSHA

4. Personnel On Site

1 X Region 4 FOSC

5. Definition of Terms

Removal Management Levels (RMLs) - are the concentrations which, when exceeded, trigger the potential need for action at ERRB sites.

Cleanup Goals - are the concentrations which should be sought once an emergency response action or time-critical removal action is initiated

NOTE: Site specific situations may impact what clean-up goal can be attained.

ng/m3 - nanograms/cubic meter (Lumex Lite spectrometer reads in ng/m3)

ug/m3 - micrograms per cubic meter (toxicological data referenced in ug/m3)

RP - Responsible Party/ owner-operator or representative for ownership/occupancy of property/business.

6. Additional sources of information**6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

N/A

6.2 Reporting Schedule

N/A

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.